

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

September 9, 2013

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1044-010

**Establishment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Bioeconomy Council (BC)
and the Bioeconomy Council Coordination Committee (BCCC)**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Bioeconomy Council and the Bioeconomy Council Coordination Committee (BCCC). This step recognizes the contribution of programs and efforts at USDA to expand the production and use of renewable energy and biobased products, and improve the efficient use of energy in the U.S. economy.

2. BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The 2008 Farm Bill set forth ambitious but attainable goals designed to promote increased energy production from renewable sources and procurement of biobased products. Provisions include the Biobased Market Program, Biorefinery Assistance Program, Repowering Assistance, Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels, Biodiesel Fuel Education Program, Rural Energy for America Program, Biomass Research and Development Initiative, Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative, Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers, Biomass Crop Assistance Program, Forest Biomass for Energy Program, and Community Wood Energy Program. More recently, the President noted the importance of these efforts through the Presidential Memorandum, *Driving Innovation and Creating Jobs in Rural America through Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement* (February 2012) and the White House release of the *National Bioeconomy Blueprint* (April 2012).

The USDA Bioeconomy Council's mission is to advance the contributions of agriculture and forestry in rural America to promote the Nation's energy security and economic growth by: facilitating communication across USDA agencies; deploying and implementing the Department's energy programs and relevant business and biobased products programs in an effective and efficient manner; and greening the operations of USDA facilities. To realize this mission, the Bioeconomy Council will promote coordination and collaboration across the Department to help ensure that the Department's numerous energy-related and biobased product programs are complementary under a comprehensive energy and bioeconomy strategy that reflects: research, development, and demonstration; economic opportunities in rural areas; outreach, education, and training; and improved efficiency and use of renewable

energy and biobased products by the Department, and, to the extent possible, across the federal government.

The BCCC coordinates energy and biobased product-related activities among USDA agencies and performs duties as assigned by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, the Bioeconomy Council Vice-Chair, or the Bioeconomy Council as a whole. It also serves as a forum for sharing information regarding energy and biobased product activities that occur outside of USDA but that involve USDA agencies.

3. ACTIONS ORDERED

- a. Establishment: There is hereby established the Bioeconomy Council. There is also established a subordinate to the Council, the Bioeconomy Council Coordination Committee.
- b. Functions: The Bioeconomy Council will promote coordination and collaboration across the Department to help ensure that the Department's numerous energy-related programs support the Department's strategic plan, priorities, and initiatives. The BCCC coordinates energy-related and biobased product activities among USDA agencies and performs duties as assigned.
- c. Composition: The Bioeconomy Council consists of the following members:

Chair: Secretary of Agriculture
Vice-Chair: As designated by the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Assistant Secretary for Administration
General Counsel
Director of Communications
Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Under Secretary, Rural Development
Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics
Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment
Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Chief Economist
Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Any other members specifically designated by the Secretary Agriculture

The chair of the BCCC is designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. Other members are appointed by the members of the Bioeconomy Council to represent each agency in his or her mission area or Departmental Office on the BCCC.

- d. Staffing: The offices of the Chief Economist and the Under Secretary for Rural Development provide staff support for the Bioeconomy Council and the BCCC.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

The provisions of this memorandum are effective immediately.

This memorandum shall remain in full force and effect for one year or until such earlier time as published Delegations of Authority have been revised to incorporate its provisions.

/s/Secretary Vilsack